

Calcoin News

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

of the

California State Numismatic Association

C O N T E N T S

Editor's Page	Page 38
Curator's Comments	38
Your Numismatic Tree	39
Reports From Our Out-of-State Friends	41
Kappen Honored	41
National Coin Week	41
Emperor Akbar, The Man Behind The Coins	43
Big Money in Sudbury	47
Who's Who in California Numismatics	48
1909	49
San Francisco Convention	51
Ugly Head of Washington	54
Private Gold Coinage of San Francisco	54
Making a Mint	56
Numismatic Retrospect	58
Yap Stone Money	59
North of the Tehachapis	60
South of the Tehachapis	62
Growing Interest in Mexico Coinage	64
From the Desk of the Secretary	66
Calendar of Numismatic Events	67

Volume 19, Number 2

SPRING, 1965



The Summer 1962 issue of Calcoin News was the first under my editorship; and this present issue, Spring 1965, completes three years of editing our quarterly publication. I have at all times tried to put out a magazine which would be a credit to CSNA, and I will continue to do so in the future.

At this time I wish to thank my two hard-working assistants—Dennis Olswang and Charles Colver—for their excellent cooperation. I wish also to thank the other CSNA officers for their assistance and cooperation. My thanks to the authors who contributed the fine articles which we have printed.

I would ask all our members to check to see if their local club is a member of CSNA. If not, endeavor to get the club to join. There are about 175 local clubs in California; but many of them are not CSNA members.

The secretaries of the various local clubs can be of great help by forwarding currently a copy of the minutes of their club meetings, or a copy of their bulletin or news letter,

to my assistants Olswang and Colver, in order that they may incorporate the doings of these clubs in their columns "North of the Tehachapis" and "South of the Tehachapis".

I note there are many excellent talks being given by our members at the local club meetings. These could very easily be written up into articles and submitted to me or to my assistants for future use in Calcoin News. To put out a well-balanced issue each time, it is essential I have on hand at all times a good supply of articles. Right now I have several very fine articles on hand for the next two issues; but I need more. May I have your cooperation?

Suggestions for the improvement of Calcoin News are always welcome.

CURATOR'S COMMENTS

Many thanks to the members who expressed their appreciation of being able to view our California Collection at the Disneyland convention.

Donations to this collection have continued to pour in. Since the last report we have received the following donations:—

Charles Colver — California merchant tokens.

Joy Parrish—wooden nickels.

Pat and Harvey Rose—silver Con-vair medal and lucky cents.

Winn Osborne—wooden nickels.

Coin World—mint medallions.

Robert Johnson, Denzil Goble and Erich Werling—united to send in a package of tokens and medals.

Donations may be sent to:

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YOUR NUMISMATIC TREE

By DOUGLAS E. DECKER, National City

I am not presuming to tell you what to collect, but rather to relate a few of the possibilities open to the numismatist. The result being that you might get one or more ideas that would grow into a strong branch of your numismatic tree. Some collectors take as much pride in their numismatic tree as they do in their family tree.

Let us exercise our imagination about this numismatic tree. Let us assume we have a very large easel with an artist standing by drawing our tree as it appears to our mind's eye. First we ask him to draw the earth with a large, strong tree trunk. This earth will symbolize to us the base of all our future collecting. Now let us hang some labels on the earth. Some of these might be—ANA - CSNA - COIN CLUB AFFILIATIONS - NUMISMATIC PAPERS - MAGAZINES - BOOKS—in short, anything that contributes to our numismatic knowledge. This brings us to the trunk of the tree which, of course, we will label NUMISMATIC KNOWLEDGE.

Before we proceed any further with the tree, we must draw a fence around it. This will symbolize to us the need for keeping our collection safe. This fence will be labeled PERSONAL SAFE - COIN INSURANCE - SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX, and any other safeguards deemed necessary for the complete protection of our collection.

From here on each of our numismatic trees will take on a different shape in the size and number of branches. Out of the trunk let us draw two extremely large branches which we will label AMERICAN and FOREIGN. From each of these two branches we will draw three branches and label them CIRCULATED - UNCIRCULATED and PROOF.

On the foreign side we will add many branches, some of the larger ones being CANADIAN - MEXICAN - BRITISH COLONIES - ROMAN and GREEK - and others could be SOUTH AMERICA - CENTRAL AMERICA - ASIATIC - EUROPEAN - ORIEN-

TAL - AFRICAN - AUSTRALIAN. Every country of the world, past and present, could be listed here and we would lose count very easily of the number of branches.

On the American side we also would lose count of the number of branches if we try to list all the different collections available to us. Of course, our larger branches could be CENTS - NICKELS - DIMES - QUARTERS - HALVES and DOLLARS. Gold coins in all the different denominations would also be a branch, as would COMMEMORATIVE GOLD and TYPE SETS OF GOLD.

Obsolete coinage, such as HALF CENT - TWO CENT - THREE CENT - HALF DIME and TWENTY CENT pieces add to the number. PAPER MONEY in the LARGE SIZE - STANDARD SIZE and FRACTIONAL also must be considered. COLONIAL COINS and COLONIAL CURRENCY - U.S. PROOF SETS and MINT SETS—all have a place on this side of the tree.

MEDALS and TOKENS are two interesting fields, attracting many serious collectors. These two fields offer unlimited ways of collecting and displaying.

Now, we will ask our artist to draw a bright sun up above our tree. This should symbolize to us, that as the sunshine makes all trees flourish and grow, so when the economic sun shines on us we should strive to complete as many of our collections as possible. Completing our collections when possible is important in this respect — completing a collection gives a sense of accomplishment. There is nothing more discouraging than letting time pass by and watching the price rise up and up on the one or two key coins we need to complete a series. Completing a series gives us the needed courage and incentive to tackle new series.

Every so often in the building of our numismatic tree we come to the point where we must say: "What shall I collect now?" This takes some study on our part. At this point we might find some ground rules helpful:

- 1.—Collect what you can afford.
- 2.—Collect what you think you can complete.
- 3.—Collect what you have the most interest in.
- 4.—Collect what you will be proud to display.
- 5.—Collect what you think has the most beautiful design.
- 6.—Collect something you will like to talk about.

Now I would like to tell you about a few different and interesting branches I have seen in the past few years:

- 1.—Several complete collections of Yeoman Red Books.
- 2.—A complete set of buffalo nickels, each coin with a mint error.
- 3.—“Off” metal coins, such as a Jefferson nickel stamped on a cent planchet; a Lincoln cent stamped on a dime planchet; and an early half dollar struck on copper.
- 4.—Proof sets from date of birth for children or grandchildren.
- 5.—One half dollar size coin from each country of the world.
- 6.—Outstanding collections have been made of tax tokens, also with street car tokens.
- 7.—There are many collectors of military medals who find this an interesting field.

WHAT TO COLLECT NOW:

If you are at the point now where you are ready to add a new branch, I might make the following recommendations:

Jefferson nickel series will never be any easier to collect than now, nor is it likely they will be any cheaper to buy. The 1938 and 1939 Jefferson nickels should prove to be excellent lay-away coins.

Franklin half dollars are now a completed series. 1953 and 1955 dates are getting hard to find. As time passes, there will be several other dates that will not be available in circulation.

Silver dollars have held a very unusual place in the minds of all collectors. The fact that the U.S.

Treasury has always had millions of these stored away, many dating back to 1878 in brilliant uncirculated condition, has cast a dark cloud over silver dollar collectors. Perhaps soon the U.S. Treasury will dispose of the balance of the silver dollars and remove this cloud. Apparently no record was kept of the dates melted under the Pitman Act. For this reason, some of the dates that are considered to be common could turn out to be not so common. I think most of us are well aware that many of the advertisements we read are mainly aimed at sales promotion. This means we should use caution when buying the expensive coins of this series.

Foreign coins are enjoying the attention of many devoted collectors and will most probably continue to add many more collectors to this field. I recently asked two of my friends, who are widely known for their knowledge of foreign coins, this question: “If you were to select two countries of the world for a numismatist to start collecting, now what would you say?” One told me South Africa and Straits Settlements. The other said France and Italy.

Tokens are another promising field at this time. Here again I asked a friend, who is an outstanding authority on the collection of tokens, what he would recommend at this time. “. . . Tradesmen Tokens all issued about 100 years ago, also Hard Times Tokens and Civil War Tokens are the best.” That was his answer.

In an evaluation of our personal numismatic tree, we can see that we may have only a small number of branches to start with. But by building a strong foundation we can expect to have bigger branches and more of them on our tree. This foundation, of course, means studying to gain the knowledge to enjoy our hobby to the fullest. By strengthening our ties with the numismatic organizations of which we are members we make a step in the right direction. Step forward and take an active part in the club of which you are a member, remembering the old adage: “You only get out of something what you put into it.”

Regardless of what branches you have chosen or will choose for your tree, do your utmost to complete

them in as good a condition as you can. Learn as much of the history behind your series as possible and you will naturally enjoy talking about this collection, perhaps before your local coin club.

Sometime soon, I hope you will sit down for a few minutes and draw your own numismatic tree. Then, of course, I know you will find it necessary to add branches from time to time.

The best advice I have for you is that after you have selected your branches you will develop at least one or two to the point where you may be considered an authority on your chosen collection.

—O—

NATIONAL COIN WEEK

"Good Will Through Numismatics" is the theme of National Coin Week, April 24-May 1.

With the unfavorable publicity given to coin collecting, because of the coin shortage during the past few months, it is of utmost importance that our hobby be presented in a most favorable light to the public. The theme for this year is most appropriate.

In past years many of our local clubs in California and individual members have participated by having outstanding exhibits in their local banks, libraries and other appropriate locations. Certainly we can do as good or better this year.

Let the public know there is a difference between coin collectors and coin hoarders.

—O—

KAPPEN HONORED

It has come to our attention that the previous editor of Calcoin News, **Charles V. Kappen**, in addition to holding the title of an Army Major and a University Professor, is becoming quite well known throughout the United States.

He has been listed for some time in the "Directory of American Scholars"; and is now listed in the 1965-66 volume of "Who's Who in the West" (published by the same firm which puts out "Who's Who in America").

To top it off—he is now listed in "Contemporary Authors", with the source of information on his biography being: Calcoin News.

REPORTS FROM . . .

Our Out-of-State Members and Friends

From **George Cheesman**, editor of the quarterly "Journal" of **Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association**:—"Man, how do you get the quality photo illustrations you use? They seem to fairly leap from the page."

From **Mrs. Margo Russell**, executive editor of **Coin World**:—"Your mention in the last issue of Calcoin News of museum contributions reminded me we ought to send a set of **Coin World** mint medals to Bryan Burke. And, so we have."

Recently on display at the **Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum**, New York, have been musket balls, a woodpecker's scalp, dentalium shells and a copper shield, these items being currencies used by the American Indians and colonials during the 17th and 18th centuries.

According to the Museum's curator, **Don Taxay**, the woodpecker's scalp, dentalium shells, clam discs and magnesium beads were all current among the tribes of the Pacific Coast.

From **R. Georges "Dick" Moore**, editor of the **VCC News**, monthly publication of **Valley Coin Club**, P.O. Box 1427, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada:—"It is the aim of the Valley Coin Club (third oldest numismatic organization in British Columbia) to further numismatics throughout the British Commonwealth and the United States. How can we achieve this? Well it is simply this. VCC News is sent gratis to various coin clubs with the understanding the groups that receive VCC News will return the courtesy by sending us their monthly paper or bulletin. One stipulation exists—any group that wishes to use any item published by another must give credit to the originator."

—O—

The initial "H" found on many Victorian English bronze pieces stands for **Ralph Heaton and Sons**, and were struck at the Birmingham mint during the late 1880s when the Royal Mint could not meet the coinage demands.

Figure 1



Figure 4



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 1—Jaunpur mint. An old "Kalima" type, issued during the early part of Akbar's reign.

Figure 2—Lahore mint. 37th year of the reign (new type of the "Ilahi Era", issued in August 1592).

Figure 3—Ahmadabad mint. 47th year of the reign (new type of the "Ilahi Era", issued in September 1602).

Figure 4—No mint name. 35th year of the reign (new type of the "Ilahi Era", issued between Dec. 12, 1590 and Jan. 11, 1591).

(All four coins enlarged twice regular size)

The Man Behind the Coin

By LEO N. KUKURANOV, San Francisco

THE MAN

For those who choose, as faithful companions of their leisure, old coins it is but natural to make, in addition to a critical examination of the coins, an appraisal of the personalities who brought these coins into being. An ancient coin may happen to be of striking beauty, revealing the artistic genius of the people who created it centuries ago, but the thought that a brutal and cowardly tyrant was the man, in whose reign the piece was struck, may somewhat dampen a collector's enjoyment of handling such a coin, particularly if he takes a parallel interest in historical reading. And the reverse is bound to take place when the image of a wise and courageous figure looms forth from behind the coin. The magic of the past is hard to resist one way or the other.

To numismatically minded people, interested in coin material of Muhammadan dynasties of India, the series issued during the long reign of Emperor Jalalu-d-din Muhammad Akbar (A.D. 1556-1605) presents a special interest not only due to their numismatic peculiarities. The very traits of this king's complex and powerful personality enhance the enjoyment of studying the rich coin heritage left by him.

Historians often associate with Akbar the majestic epithet "the Great". Before attempting to analyze the justification of such a distinction, we must remind ourselves of several important points. When we try to make an objective appraisal of a head of a vast state, whose reign is separated from our days by a span of about 400 years, we should be careful to avoid applying to him the measuring scale of statesmanship based on conceptions born in times closer to ours. This precaution is essential, if we want to be fair, when speaking of Akbar. The founders of Muhammadan dynasties of Hindustan, almost without exception, were adventurers from the neighboring Central-Asian lands. The only purpose of their invasions of India and establishing their sway over

the country was to satisfy their lust for power, gold, jewels and slaves. The general welfare of their subjects was the last thing of which they thought. Even the brilliant warrior and eminent poet Babur, founder of the Mughal dynasty of India, and grandfather of Akbar, had nothing but contempt for his newly conquered subjects of northern India, as witnessed by some of the comments in his famous memoirs.

The 16th century of our era had a galaxy of outstanding rulers both in Europe and Asia: Elizabeth I of England, Henry IV of France, Sultan Suleiman of Turkey, Shah Abbas I of Persia, and Akbar of Hindustan were all contemporaries for at least a part of their reign. But while the first four came to the throne as grown up persons with very substantial territories to rule over, Akbar was proclaimed king at the age of 13, with barely a fraction of the kingdom recovered by his father Emperor Humayun after the latter's prolonged political eclipse and exile as a result of military defeats by a capable Afghan adventurer Sher Shah, founder of a short-lived dynasty of India. It was during his father's exile that Akbar was born in 1542. His childhood, mostly spent in simple, even primitive surroundings, away from the luxuries of palace life, was a healthy foundation for the physical development of the boy. He grew into a spirited adolescent wholly absorbed in outdoor life—riding, hunting and military training. At the same time he refused to take to book studies and some sources indicate that to the end of his days Akbar remained half illiterate, in spite of his exceptionally keen mind and phenomenal memory.

When in 1556 an accident caused the premature death of Akbar's father, Emperor Humayun, the trusted general Bairam-Khan arranged Akbar's enthronement and carried on the successful recovery of the kingdom, with the boy-king taking active part in the campaigns, which developed into a crushing defeat of the enemy and the

eventual recapture of the capital cities of Delhi and Agra. Thus Akbar received his early military training on actual battle fields. He did not, however, take the reigns of government into his own hands until he was 20 years old when, faced with an open murderous challenge of his authority, he freed himself from nefarious interference and influence of some court circles. This was a decisive turning point in Akbar's life. Deeply disappointed in surrounding relatives and false friends, he understood that he could rely only on Divine help and himself. From then on he became the real master of his realm, both as military commander and statesman.

The young Emperor was only in his 22nd year when he ordered the abolition of levy dues from Hindu pilgrims. "Akbar expressed the opinion that it was contrary to the will of God to tax people assembled to worship the Creator, even though their form of worship might be considered erroneous." (1) This measure meant a considerable financial loss to Akbar's treasury, and was followed the next year by abolition of "jizya", a poll tax on non-Muslims; the Muslims being a comparatively small minority, this tax applied to the bulk of Akbar's subjects, the Hindus, and its abrogation undoubtedly caused a huge further reduction of revenue. Both measures must have been irksome to Akbar's Muslim ministers, and one cannot help admiring the determined strength of will so judiciously displayed by the young king against definite opposition on the side of his co-religionists. The abolished taxation, besides representing a heavy financial burden, had previously branded the vast majority of the Hindu population as second rate subjects, while placing those of an alien race and religion in a privileged position. By discontinuing it Akbar lifted the stigma of inferiority from his Hindu subjects.

The first half of Akbar's long reign was filled with an almost continuous warfare with the Emperor leading his troops in person, often in the forefront of battles. His indomitable personal courage knew no bounds, and on many occasions exposed him to mortal danger in war and sport. The long list of his victorious campaigns was primarily the result of his driving personality, his thorough planning and

detailed supervision of all preparatory measures and his unfailing leadership in the face of great odds. The fruit of these campaigns was the gradual subjugation of the neighboring independent kingdoms and principalities, sometimes without the slightest provocation on their side. With the territorial expansion came a steady increase in power and wealth. Very ambitious by nature, Akbar studiously mapped out the most effective steps for enhancing his prestige, occasionally by harsh and brutal means, signs of his times, but more often by endeavoring to win over, whenever possible, his former foes by gesture of clemency and granting them face-saving chances to serve him one way or the other. The latter method won him many firm supporters among his former opponents. To solidify his authority he drastically reorganized the method of compensation of high dignitaries of the state, replacing land grants for services with payment of salaries, thus destroying the independence and local influence of large estate owners, and creating instead a more docile bureaucracy.

His flair for gifted men, both in affairs of state and the domain of applied arts, contributed greatly to placing outstanding talent in charge of essential branches of government; among the chosen ones there were quite a few Hindus. A most striking example of this we see in the person of Raja Todar Mall who, coming from a poor village of central India, rose to the highest position in the state, that of "vakil", or prime minister.

In spite of his immense accumulated wealth, Akbar was not a careless spend-thrift; but he was fond of splendor and pomp. His natural good taste guided him in all grand constructions of palaces and forts, some of which have survived in a perfect condition up to our days. (Fathpur-Sikri, Akbar's capital city for 15 years near Agra, is a striking example.) As a patron of artistic activities Akbar attracted to his court creative talent of his age in all branches of art, in architecture and painting in particular. The Mughal school of painting as well as the type of architecture, in which both characteristic Indian and Muhammadan features were successfully blended, have their origin in the time of his reign.

As a central figure on a vast stage of oriental politics, Akbar had to be a consummate actor with some of the unattractive peculiarities common to most of the men of politics of all times, at least to some extent, hypocrisy and duplicity included. Quick tempered by nature, Akbar, we are told, "was so completely master of his emotions that he could hardly ever be seen otherwise than as perfectly pleasant and serene." (2) Akbar's success as a statesman and military commander lies in the extraordinary qualities of his mind, spirit and body fused together to produce a born leader of men. Almost all written comments of persons, who came into close contact with Akbar, concur in the high appraisal of his personality. His perfectly dignified appearance and charm of manners were irresistible. The Jesuit Father Jerome Xavier, who was at Akbar's court during the last ten years of his reign, described Akbar's manners by saying: "In truth he was great with the great, and lowly with the lowly." (3)

Side by side with the empire builder engrossed in heavy tasks of government, a man of action on the path of conquest, amassment of wealth and centralized power, was ever present a mystic and a thinker in search of answers to the eternal questions about God and man. The thirst after a true religion was so deeply seated in Akbar's mind that it often absorbed him entirely. He looked for the answers in listening for hours to debates on religious matters between learned men of various creeds: Muslims, Christians, Zoroastrians, Buddhists, Jains and others. Even a special building was erected in his capital city Fathpur-Sikri called the "House of Worship" (now no longer existing), where the discourses on religious and philosophical subjects were mainly conducted. The Emperor, a Muhammadan by birth and family tradition, gradually lost faith in the tenets of Islam, and his inquisitive mind tried to explore the whole range of religious thoughts and teachings. Not finding a wholly satisfactory answer in any of them, he decided to establish a new eclectic religion, which would borrow all that he considered worthy and good in other creeds. His close advisors and flatterers counseled that he personally should act as the high priest of the new religion, to

which he gave the name of Divine Monotheism (Din Ilahi). This venture was a total failure. Only the palace coterie, some high dignitaries and opportunistically minded people made up the following. The bulk of the population remained deaf to this artificial religion, which was alien in its teaching to the age old traditions of the predominant religions.

Akbar's gradual abandonment of Islam caused a violent wave of hatred among some Muslim circles; this found its serious repercussions in the political life of the empire. It demanded all the energy and resourcefulness of Akbar and the whole might of his military organization to retain control of the state and defeat the attempt to unseat him. Some Muslim historians of Akbar's time even accuse Akbar of persecuting his former coreligionists, and this may to some extent be true. His personal inclination seems to have been towards a nature worship as reflected in Zoroastrian teachings.

"Man's acquisitive trait is not what makes him great", said Rear-Admiral H. R. Rickover in his thought-provoking book "Education and Freedom" (p. 59). This fully applies to Akbar. His acquisitive drive for wealth and power was stupendous, and he succeeded to concentrate both in his hands far above what any of his contemporary monarchs possessed. But this alone would not single him out as one of the greatest sovereigns. What did make him great and endeared him to the posterity in India are these two basic features of his reign which stand out in a striking contrast to the general policy of all the Muhammadan autocrats of India: (a) his recognition of the fact that the loyalty of subjects, in a vast majority alien to him by race and religion, cannot be merely imposed by force, but rather by the principle of equal treatment; and (b) his negation to Islam of its established position of a privileged religion and admittance of religious tolerance. Simple as these two principles may appear to us now, they were anathema in the eyes of Moslem kings of Akbar's time, and it required his outstanding statesmanship to implement them into the working system of his government.

This is just a very sketchy outline of the image of the empire builder of

late medieval India, some fundamental ideas of whose institutions received recognition and partial revival under the British rule. The late Vincent A. Smith, himself a former official of Indian civil service and an eminent author of historical works on India, made the following statement about Akbar: "His institutions are not merely of historical and antiquarian interest, but are in some degree the foundation of the system of administration now in operation." (4).

THE COINAGE

Emperor Akbar's coinage derives its particular interest for historians and students of numismatics for several reasons. (1) It faithfully reflected the growth of the Mughal empire; (2) puts into relief the main centers of administrative and commercial activity during the various periods of Akbar's long reign; (3) therein is tangibly mirrored this monarch's break with Islam and his new religious credo; (4) by the purity of the metal contents and the stability of standards of weight it points to the efficient management and supervision of this branch of government; and (5) as a field of the engraver's and calligrapher's art, it has brought down to our days a large number of fine illustrations of these minor arts of the early Mughal period.

H. C. Rawlinson, author of "India, a Short Cultural History", makes the following statement about Akbar's coinage: "Amongst the many improvements introduced by Akbar was an excellent system of coinage, which for purity of metal, fullness of weight and artistic workmanship excelled anything in the West" (p. 308). Whether this is an exaggeration or not must be left to judge to those experts who are equally at home in the fields of western and oriental numismatics of the second half of the 16th century. Whatever their conclusion may be, all acknowledged authorities on Mughal series concur in a very high opinion about Akbar's coinage.

We all know that coins in the middle ages were the main tools of daily reminder to the population about the person of their king. In the western countries usually his image on the coins enhanced the effect. As the Koran prohibited the use on coins of any images of the living world, an orthodox Muhammadan ruler had at

his disposal quotations from the Koran, names of the caliphs, successors of the Prophet, besides his own name, date and place of issue. It was left to the calligraphic virtuosity of the engraver to adorn the coins by means of arabesque and floral ornamentation side by side with finely executed inscriptions.

During the first 30 years of his reign Akbar's coinage in many respects followed the standards introduced by the Delhi Sultans of the Suri Dynasty (1538-54). The monetary units already current, namely: mohur for gold, rupee, silver, and dam for copper, were retained, but Akbar paid close personal attention to the improvement of the system of mint supervision. The re-organization took place towards the end of 1577, when the Emperor appointed as Master of the Mint at the capital an eminent painter and calligrapher, placing concurrently the highest officials in charge of the five principal provincial mints. Always eager to introduce something new, Akbar at the same time ordered the striking of square coins in addition to the round ones. This shape though was already in use in the kingdom of Malwa, conquered by Akbar early in his reign.

The promulgation of the new religion had a drastic influence on Akbar's coinage. The Koranic profession of Muhammadan faith, the so-called "Kalima", the names of the first four orthodox caliphs, and the Hijra dating gradually disappeared. Instead the coins began to bear the leading motto of the new creed: "Al-lahu Akbar Jalla Jalala", meaning: "God is most great, eminent in His glory". The new system of dating the coins had as its starting point the first year of Akbar's reign: A.H. 963 or A.D. 1556, and in accordance with the name of the new religion—"Tauhid Ilahi" (Divine Monotheism)—the new era was also called "Ilahi" or Divine Era. The lunar calendar of the Islamic faith was replaced with the solar calendar, and the names of the old Persian months included in the coin legend. In later years some very rare coins of Akbar even had designs taken from animal beings (birds), and in one known case human-like figures from Hindu mythology were pictured on a few extremely rare gold and silver coins.

With the growth of Akbar's ter-

ritorial acquisitions his mints multiplied; and judging by the specimens so far recorded, their number was in excess of 80. Not all of these mints, of course, functioned at the same time, and only a limited number were active throughout Akbar's reign, with Agra, Ahmadabad and Lahor being among the most productive ones. Some mints are known only by one issue, commemorating some military success, and which should rather be classified as medallions. The latest work on the subject of Mughal mints—"Mint Towns of the Mughal Emperors of India", by C. R. Singhal, a well known authority on a wide range of coins, issued by various Muhammadan dynasties of India (published in 1953 by Numismatic Society of India, Bombay) gives the following figures of Akbar's mints, of which specimens have been found and described: issuing gold coins, 21; silver coins, 45; copper, 64; by far not all of them minted coins in all three metals.

It is of interest to mention additionally the following two peculiarities of Mughal mintage stressed by Prof. S. H. Hodivala (5): (a) Both gold and silver issues had "a much smaller proportion of alloy than either the English sovereign or the British Indian rupee". As a result "they were . . . much sooner worn and more liable to clipping or sweating."

(Hence the comparative difficulty of securing well preserved Mughal coins.) (b) Anyone could get his gold, silver and copper converted at the mint into coins on "paying to the State a small royalty or seigniorage. (This "free coinage" system accounts for the large quantities of Akbar's coins that have come down to our days from several mints located at commercial and administrative centers of his empire. However, comparatively few among them have not grievously suffered from either wear or deliberate damage for reasons mentioned above.)

The finest collection of Akbar's issues is supposed to be in the British Museum, London. However, a visit to the Museum of the American Numismatic Society, New York City, would be a rewarding experience for all taking interest in Mughal series.

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References

- (1) Vincent A. Smith: "Akbar, the Great Mogul", 2nd edition, 1958, p. 47.
- (2) Vincent A. Smith: "Akbar, the Great Mogul", 2nd edition, revised, Indian reprint, 1958, p. 248.
- (3) Ibidem: page 243.
- (4) Vincent A. Smith: "Akbar, the Great Mogul", 2nd edition, 1958, p. 258.
- (5) Prof. S. H. Hodivala: "Historical Studies in Mughal Numismatics", Calcutta, 1923, p. 131-132.

ANA FUND DRIVE

From ANA headquarters comes the report that the Building Fund for a National Headquarters has passed the half way mark! But, there is still a long way to go.

To be announced shortly are the proposed sites, and recommendations as to which one should be selected. Building plans will be considered by the ANA executive board at the Houston convention in August, and actual construction will start promptly thereafter.

We have been advised by the Home and Headquarters Committee that California, based on an "Amount Donated Per Member", is 22nd in a list of 53. Certainly not a very good showing.

Donations may be forwarded to Don Sherer, Executive Secretary ANA, 3520 N. Seventh St., Phoenix, Ariz. 85014.

BIG MONEY IN SUDBURY

An enlarged replica of Canada's 1951 nickel has been erected in the new 17 acre Centennial Numismatic Park at Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

The nickel, 30 feet in diameter, and made of stainless steel, commemorates the 200th anniversary of the discovery of nickel for commercial use. It stands on an eight foot stone base on a rocky plateau overlooking the city. At night the monument is illuminated and can be seen for miles.

During this year a large copy of the U.S. Kennedy 50-cent piece and a copy of a Canadian dollar bill will be erected. Eventually the "Big Nickel" will be surrounded by copies of other coins of the world.

A museum for exhibits on the nickel industry, the history of Sudbury, and numismatics is also planned.

Who's Who In California Numismatics

S. EVERETT PHILLIPS

By Fred E. Tinkham

Experience — Ability — Willingness To Work — these are three attributes necessary for one to become, and continue to be, a club officer. These qualities are exemplified in S. Everett Phillips of Fresno.

Everett was born in Hanford, Calif., May 2, 1921, the son of John W. Phillips, (now deceased) and Mary A. Phillips (now a resident of Fresno). He attended Hanford Grammar School, Hanford Union High School and Fresno State College, and completed his education at the University of Southern California, School of Law, where he graduated with the degree of LL.B.

On Dec. 1, 1950, he married the charming Wilma Cobb, and this union is blessed with three children, Samuel E. III, age 12, Mary Michele, age 6, and John William, age 4.

In 1951 Everett entered the profession of law in his own office; and the sign on the door of his office in Fresno reads: "Attorney at Law, General Practice".

His interest in numismatics developed from talking with other members of his family, who are coin collectors, and they convinced him that he should be a collector.

He commenced in 1955, and his collection, which has grown rapidly, includes completed sets of U.S. dimes, quarter dollars and half dollars from 1892 to date, cents from 1857 to date, nickels from 1883 to date, and silver dollars from 1878 to 1935. Also included are Canadian decimal series, as well as the British Commonwealth coinage of Elizabeth II. Quite a few tokens, medals, wooden nickels and small size currency are interesting pieces in his collection.

Membership is maintained in the American Numismatic Association, no. 27751 (1957), California State Numismatic Association, no. 952 (1959), Fresno Numismatic Society, no. 4



(1956), and Hanford Coin Club, no. 19 (1956).

Everett has filled the following offices with credit: president of the Fresno Numismatic Society, 1958, and member of the board of governors, 1960 to date; vice president of Hanford Coin Club, 1959, and president, 1960; member of the board of directors of the California State Numismatic Association, 1963 to date.

Other important positions handled capably were assistant historian of the Spring 1958 CSNA convention in Fresno, and chairman of the literary awards committee at the Spring 1965 CSNA convention in San Francisco.

He has been appointed general chairman of the CSNA convention to be held in Fresno, April 14-17, 1966, and is busily engaged in the preliminary arrangements. His appointment assures success for this coming convention.

As an exhibitor he received first

award for Miscellaneous at the Spring 1960 CSNA convention, and third award for Paper Money at the Fall 1963 CSNA convention.

A working library of various subjects consisting of about 75 volumes, plus a complete file of "The Numismatist" from 1930 to date, fills his need for reference work.

As a writer he has contributed articles for The Numismatist "Book Review", Sept. 1961, and "Those Puffins Again", March 1963. He is a frequent contributor to the Fresno Numismatic Society's club bulletin "The Fresno Numismatist".

He has appeared on "The Peoples Show", KMJ-TV, with a coin exhibit and interview; has had two radio interviews on numismatics; has been a regular exhibitor at the club's coin display at the Fresno District Fair; and local club speaker on several occasions.

During 1942-45 he served with the U.S. Army Finance Department.

Non-numismatic organizations in which he holds membership are: California State Bar Assoc., California Trial Lawyers Assoc., Fresno County Bar Assoc., Pi Gamma Mu (a national social science honor society), Delta Theta Phi (a national law fraternity), and various social and service organizations.

From the above one can understand why Everett has no spare time for any other hobbies than coin collecting—also why he is one of the outstanding numismatists in the San Joaquin Valley area.

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CALCOIN NEWS ISSUES NEEDED

We are extremely short of extra copies of the Winter 1965 issue of Calcoin News. Any of our members having a copy they do not need are kindly requested to forward it to our Secretary, Dan Harley.

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CSNA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

In the past our CSNA Membership Directory has been printed in the Spring issue of Calcoin News. However, this year it will appear in the Summer issue.

This change is at the request of our Secretary, who states it will give him more time to put out an accurate and up-to-date directory.

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By RAY BOWER, Ojai

Probably one of the most interesting and unusual years of American coinage, during the twentieth century at least, is the year 1909, when so many historical events took place.

First we say goodbye to the J. B. Longacre-designed Indian cent, that had been coined since 1859, a total of 51 years. Some 14½ million were struck in 1909—14,370,645 at Philadelphia and 309,000 at San Francisco, the latter being the scarcest issue of all small cents.

The next important event of this year was the introduction of the Lincoln cent designed by Victor D. Brenner. The Lincoln cent was the first regular issue to bear a portrait that could be recognized. We also see the introduction of the motto "In God We Trust" on a cent for the first time.

Considering the fact that we struck six different mint varieties for a total of 117,686,263 cents, the largest production for a single year in our history, this date 1909 produced the shortest issue in both the Indian Head cent and the Lincoln cent. Both issues are from the San Francisco mint which had only commenced to strike cents in 1908.

The year marked the closing of the New Orleans mint that first struck coins in 1839. In this final year of coinage they struck 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ pieces, along with the \$5 gold piece.

Coins were struck this year in four different mints. The minor coinage consisted of:

- 1909 and 1909-S Indian Head cent, J. B. Longacre designed.
- 1909, 1909 VDB, 1909-S and 1909-S VDB Lincoln Head cent, Victor D. Brenner designed.
- 1909 Liberty Head 5¢ nickel, C. E. Barber designed.
- 1909, 1909-S, 1909-D and 1909-O Liberty Head or Barber type ten cents.
- 1909, 1909-S, 1909-D and 1909-O Liberty Head quarter dollar, C. E. Barber designed.
- 1909, 1909-S and 1909-O Liberty Head half dollar, C. E. Barber designed.

The proof finishes for the year found the Indian Head cents, the 5¢

nickels, and the silver coinage being struck with the earlier brilliant surface. But the mint also tried the new Matte finish on all the Lincolns that were struck in proof condition. This finish produced a coin not unlike the regular issue, the distinguishing features being the sharp, square edge and the sharpness of detail in the lettering and design. A collector must be aware of well struck Lincoln cents being sold and passed off as true Matte proofs. It is one of the most difficult of all proof coins to properly identify. The Matte finish so resembled the regular issue that many found their way into circulation making them much scarcer than their mint record shows.

The gold issue of 1909 is found to be rather unusual in that this year produced the only recognized overdate—the 1909/8 Double Eagle or \$20 piece.

Gold coins were struck in \$2.50 or Quarter Eagle and \$5 or Half Eagle denominations. These two were designed by Bela L. Pratt and were in-

cuse in design, a coin that is most beautiful in gem or proof condition.

Also struck in 1909 was the \$10 or Eagle St. Gauden's designed Princess Head, and the \$20 or Double Eagle.

The gold coins were struck in a satin finish or a much lighter color proof surface in 1909 and 1910. However, in 1911 they reverted back to the sandblast proof finish they had first tried in 1908.

Gold coins were struck in the four mints as follows:

- \$2.50 at Philadelphia only.
- \$5 at Philadelphia, San Francisco, New Orleans and Denver.
- \$10 at Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco.
- \$20 at Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver.

If a collector cared to assemble a complete year set for 1909 of the minor and gold coins, including the proofs and including the overdate Double Eagle, there would be 41 coins.

—**SANTA BARBARA COIN CLUB "NUMISMA"**



One Hundred and One Years Young

In the Winter 1964 issue of Calcoin News appeared an article on the Nevada Centennial Commemorative Medallion issued by Masterpiece Medallions, and which were used in conjunction with the celebration of 100 years of statehood of Nevada.

In addition to the state medallion, the original idea was to issue a medallion for each of the 17 counties in Nevada. However, they were issued for five only:—Clark, Eureka, Lincoln, Washoe and White Pine. Shown above is the one for Washoe County.

If not available at your local dealer, either the State commemorative medallion or the county series may be ordered directly from Masterpiece Medallions, 1452 N. Tulane Road, Claremont, California 91712. Price is \$1.50 for the nickel-silver composition, and \$1.00 for the golden bronze. California residents add 4% sales tax.



San Francisco Convention

By KATHY MULLER

Plans for the 36th semi-annual California State Numismatic Association's spring convention, to be held at the beautiful and spacious Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, May 6-9, are proceeding on schedule reports Milton C. Strauch, general chairman. Thousands of visitors from California, and from many of the other states, are expected—and new records for convention numismatic and hospitality activities should be set.

It is fitting and appropriate that the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society is hosting this convention, as this year of 1965 signifies the golden anniversary of the founding of the society. PCNS was founded in 1915 by the late Farran Zerbe, in conjunction with the Panama Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco that year, and with the first convention to be held by the American Numismatic Association on the West Coast, also held in San Francisco that year.

On display will be several cases

holding the society's 1915 collection of PPIE, San Francisco and California items.

All CSNA and PCNS members (as well as non-members of either organization) are urged to exhibit. There is ample, well-lighted space for exhibits.

A special attraction in the exhibit room will be a special section, in which many of the past "Best of Show" exhibits will be shown. A special "Best of Best of Show" award will be given to the winning exhibit in this category.

Aldo Basso, bourse chairman, reports that bourse invitations have been mailed, and that space is available for 75 reputable coin dealers. From the stock on hand, one should be able to find the coin or other numismatic item for which he is looking. There is ample space in the bourse room, and it is well lighted.

The auction will be conducted by John Cobb, professional numismatist

and one of California's leading auctioneers. The auction will be held in three sessions, as listed in the convention program.

Don Thrall, forum chairman, announces the speakers will be **Robert Burroughs** of Berkeley and **Abe Kosoff** of Encino. These gifted speakers will provide a program of numismatic interest to all. (Editor's note:—This is one portion of the convention program which everyone should attend. I have heard both these men speak before, and am eagerly awaiting hearing them again.)

Mrs. Esther Strauch advises the Ladies Hospitality meeting on Friday afternoon is a "must" and should be attended by all the ladies present.

The **Saturday night banquet** promises to be outstanding—superb food and entertainment.

CSNA and PCNS extend to all a cordial invitation to attend this outstanding show to be held in the beautiful and hospitable city of San Francisco.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

General Chairman	Milton C. Strauch
Asst. Gen. Chairman	John D. Sears
	Clifford L. Liss
	Lesley G. Lodge
Registration	Dan Harley
Auction	John Cobb
Bourse	Aldo P. Basso
Exhibits	Roy Hill
Hospitality	Esther Strauch
Forum	Don Thrall
Banquet	Leo and Francis Smith
Banquet Entertainment	John D. Sears
Awards	William A. Ames
Brunch	Lesley G. Lodge
Publicity	Kathy Muller
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rudy Gjurovich

CONVENTION PROGRAM

(Subject to minor changes)

Thursday, May 6

- 8:00 a.m. Door open to bourse dealers only. Placing of exhibits in lobby.
- 10:00 a.m. Official opening of convention. Registration of members and guests.
- 10:30 p.m. Bourse and exhibit areas closed.
- Evening Visit beautiful San Francisco.

Friday, May 7

- 10:00 a.m. Bourse and exhibit areas open. Registration desk open.
- 1:00 p.m. Ladies Hospitality—Twin Peaks Room.
- 3:00 p.m. CSNA Executive Board meeting—Telegraph Hill Room.
- 7:00 p.m. Auction—first session—Gas Buggy Room.
- 8:00 p.m. Numismatic Forum—Telegraph Hill Room.
- 10:30 p.m. Bourse and exhibit areas closed.

Saturday, May 8

- 10:00 a.m. Bourse and exhibit areas open. Registration desk open.
- 10:15 a.m. Auction—second session—Gas Buggy Room.
- 11:00 a.m. CSNA general business meeting. Election of officers.
- 1:30 p.m. Auction—third session—Gas Buggy Room.
- 3:00 p.m. California Exonumist Society, annual meeting—Telegraph Hill Room.
- 6:30 p.m. Cocktail hour—El Dorado Room.
- 7:30 p.m. Banquet—presentation of awards, entertainment and installation of officers.
- 10:30 p.m. Bourse and exhibit areas closed.

Sunday, May 9

- 10:00 a.m. Bourse and exhibit areas open. Registration desk open.
- 11:00 a.m. Club members brunch—Cosmopolitan Dining Room.
- 5:00 p.m. Convention adjourns.
- Evening Visit beautiful San Francisco.

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SAN LUIS OBISPO MUSEUM

Next time you are in the area or passing through San Luis Obispo, take time out to visit the S.L.O. County Historical Museum, and view its numismatic exhibit. Located in the Dallidet Adobe, next to the Mission, the museum is open daily except Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closing during the noon hour. It has many interesting items relating to California's past, including tokens and paper notes.

(Editor's Note: Undoubtedly there are many such interesting and historical places and exhibits in California. We would welcome short write-ups about them from our members.)



MILTON C. STRAUCH
Convention General Chairman

We have heard the question—"Is he qualified?"

Well, here are some of his accomplishments during the past few years:

Vice President and President of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, 1959-60 and 1961-62.

Vice President of San Francisco Coin Club, 1963.

Treasurer, 1961-62-63, Vice President, 1964, and President, 1965, of the Northern California Numismatic Association.

Has submitted several articles for Calcoin News, and has won three Literary Awards, two seconds and one first.

Has exhibited at almost every CSNA convention he has attended, and in addition to numerous first, second and third place awards has won a Best of Show award and a Special Award for the best Confederate exhibit.

Has twice been Exhibit Award Chairman.

Yes—we believe he is well qualified to be general chairman of this CSNA convention.

For a resume of Milton's earlier life, see "Who's Who in California Numismatics", Calcoin News, September 1956.

MUCH EASIER CRITICIZING THAN DOING . . .

"Ten Ways to Kill Your Coin Society" are listed in the current number of the Journal of the Tasmanian Numismatic Society, one of Australia's newest coin organizations. The ten sure ways listed are:

Don't go to the meetings.

If you do go, go late.

If you have something else to do, don't go.

If you attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and members.

Never accept an office. It is easier to criticize than to do things.

Get sore if you are appointed on a committee; but if you are, don't go to the committee meetings.

If asked by the chairman to give your opinion on some matter, tell him that you have nothing to say.

After the meeting, tell everyone how things should have been done.

Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when other members use their time and ability to help matters along, howl that the club is run by cliques.

Complain about the dues.

Reprint from COIN WORLD, Oct. 14, 1964 issue.

LIBERTY

The motto "Liberty" first appeared on the cents and half cents of 1793.

However, "Liberty" has not appeared on all our U.S. coins. Flying Eagle cents did not have it, nor is it to be found on the two cent piece, or silver three cent piece. The motto was first added to the five cent nickel in 1883. It is missing from many of the commemorative half dollars, and the only gold commemorative to contain "Liberty" is the 1926 Sesquicentennial quarter eagle.

OUR APOLOGIES

In the last issue of Calcoin News appeared the article entitled "American-Pacific Stamp Co."—but no credit was given to the author!

Our apologies to the author, our own vice president, **Charles V. Kappen**, for this inexcusable oversight.



THE UGLY HEAD OF WASHINGTON

By MAURICE M. GOULD, Boston, Mass.

The most unusual of all medals struck for the Father of our Country is called **The Ugly Head**.

The reason for this is that the medal may be described as follows: Obverse: "Washington the Great, D.G.", a very ugly head facing right, border serrated. The reverse has a chain of thirteen rings, each bearing the name of a state, and in the center space "84".

Crosby, in his monumental work on Colonial coins, said: "the border and edge size are $16\frac{1}{2}$, the weight 102 grains."

The "84" may be the last two figures of the date as it is possible that the figure "17" may have been above, as the two figures now occupy only the lower half of the central field.

The profile of Washington is shown without his wig and with his false

teeth removed, giving him a grotesque appearance.

There are only a few specimens known of this extremely rare item. One is in the National Collection, one at the Massachusetts Historical Society headquarters, and the author has both a genuine piece and an interesting copy.

These pieces were evidently struck by Tories, and the ones known seem only to have shown up in the Boston area.

We all know of the great many medals of Washington lauding him for the work he did for his country, many of them depicting him as the General on horseback, but this is the only satirical piece, showing him in an unfavorable light and belittling and besmirching the great hero of the Revolution.

Private Gold Coinage of San Francisco

By RONNIE CARR, Tulare

Certainly it can be asserted that San Francisco was the "mecca" of private issue gold in California from 1849 through 1855.

During the gold rush years, those that followed, regular government coinage along with all other accept-

able foreign monetary medium was being hoarded by merchants for export and import duties. California citizens and business men were faced with the perplexing problem of seeking some method to alleviate the shortage of circulating coinage. As

early as 1848 merchants petitioned the California legislature for a bill which would allow private firms to issue gold. The critical situation was solved eventually.

It required the untiring efforts of countless public spirited citizens in suggesting continuously that State legislation be adopted to bring about sufficient coinage in California. Finally on April 12, 1850, prominent citizens of San Francisco addressed a petition to Governor Peter Burnett, asking that Frederick D. Kohler be appointed State Assayer. The bill creating the office of State Assayer became law on April 20, 1850. This led the way for some fifteen firms to rise and fall during the next five years.

It was hoped that all establishments would strike and issue gold pieces within the same standards of pureness as regular government gold coins. However, unfortunately this was not always true.

In 1849, Moffat and Co. was formed. While not the first company to strike private gold, it was the most reputable and enjoyed the longest operation as a semi-official concern. In June of 1849, Moffat & Co. began to issue small rectangular pieces of gold in values from \$9.43 to \$264.00. Today the only \$9.43 specimen reposes in the mint collection of the Smithsonian Institution. The most common variety is the \$16 ingot, which is relatively scarce and commands a premium of many thousands of dollars. Following the ingots, Moffat & Co. issued two \$10 coins as well as a \$5 piece in 1849. The last coin to bear the name, Moffat & Co., was the \$20 type of 1853. It has never been actually established why this particular denomination bears the firm's name, as John Little Moffat retired some time before the coin was struck.

Pacific & Co., also of San Francisco, is somewhat of a mystery firm. Its origin is quite uncertain. It is believed the exceedingly rare coins of this firm were hand-struck, with the assistance of a sledge-hammer. To attest to their rarity, recently in the 1964 Kreisberg-Schulman sale in New York the \$10 and \$5 specimens from the Virgil Brand collection sold for \$42,000; a record breaking price for private issue gold. These coins bear on the obverse a radiated cap quite

similar to the coins of Mexico. The reverse shows a somewhat slender eagle within the words "PACIFIC COMPANY CALIFORNIA".

San Francisco was the home of two other noted firms—Schultz & Co. and Dunbar & Co. Each issued \$5 pieces only in the year 1851. The famous engraver, Albert Kuner, made the dies for both these organizations. Today these coins are very rare, due to their high gold content which through the years found them in the melting pot for a small profit. Such a pity, to be sure, as nearly all have been lost to the present day collector. In the 1963 dispersal of the George O. Walton collection, a Dunbar & Co. specimen in extremely fine condition sold for a record price of \$11,250. In the same sale going at \$8,250 was a Shultz & Co. half eagle.

The desire of all private gold collectors is to own one of the 13 specimens of the fabulous Kellogg & Co. "slug". Without question the most beautifully designed of any private issue gold piece, this coin above all others is the ultimate. John G. Kellogg came to San Francisco Oct. 12, 1849, from Auburn, N.Y. During the first few years he was employed by Moffat & Co., and remained with that organization until Dec. 14, 1853. The lack of coin was again desperate, and the business men petitioned Kellogg and Richter to "supply the need". Their plea was answered and on Feb. 9, 1854 Kellogg & Co. placed their first \$20 piece in circulation.

Among the most interesting gold pieces issued in California are the small denomination gold coins from 1853 through 1882. Issued in quarters, halves and dollars they were in many cases made by the same parties who coined the larger denominations. Others were struck by jewelers and merchants. None of these small pieces can be attributed with certainty to any individual or firm. Specimens are found in both octagonal and round shape. Nearly all the genuine ones have the denomination spelled DOL. or DOLLAR. Again San Francisco can take credit for being the originator of these highly charming coins.

In the years 1908, 1909, 1910, 1914 and 1915 M. E. Hart Co., 560 Powell St., San Francisco, coined numerous small denomination pieces including special items for the Alaska Yukon

Pacific Exposition and small token gold pieces for the states of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Utah. A most prodigious firm, it provided thousands of beautiful small gold coins for all to enjoy.

Private gold coinage saw its last year of production by 1855 in California. Then by act of Congress in 1864 it became illegal to mint gold coins privately. Today most all private issue gold pieces are quite scarce, with numerous series being

nearly extinct. It is also true certain dates are relatively common, however, in true numismatic meaning all, even the most readily available private issue gold coins, are all rare fragments filled with invaluable moments of history, sentiment and priceless legends of mystery, representing a time to which we can never return—only to be satisfied and awed by the remaining pieces of our State's romantic past that we can possess through private issue gold.

MANY, MANY YEARS AGO THERE LIVED A VERMONT WHO COINED MONEY BY MAKING A MINT

UNPROFITABLE THOUGH IT WAS!

By MARY DILLMAN

Coining money to make money was a legal, private enterprise in Vermont just as it was in Connecticut and New Jersey. The Vermonter who "made a mint" lived in Rupert, and his name was Reuben Harmon Jr.

During the period of the confederacy between the Declaration of Independence and adoption of the Constitution in 1788, mints were established in these three states-to-be by individuals who petitioned their respective legislatures to grant them the right to coin money. All coined copper pennies.

Evidence points to a scarcity of small coins throughout the country at that time, and in Vermont, so far from the business centers, doubtless this was felt most severely. The independent republic of Vermont authorized coinage in June 1785. Connecticut followed in October of that year and New Jersey in June 1786. Massachusetts also established a mint that October but it was conducted by the government itself, not as a private enterprise.

The United States mint was not established until 1792, and a hodgepodge of foreign gold and silver was in circulation, most of it Spanish-made in Mexico. Since these coins

were generally acceptable and local silver mines were non-existent, no state silver coinage was done in the North. Much of the copper used probably came from Granby, Connecticut (copper was not mined in Vermont until 1793).

Upon his petition, Vermont's General Assembly granted Reuben Harmon the exclusive right to coin copper within the state for two years, beginning July 1, 1785, and the period was later extended. Under the act security was required, and a bond of 5,000 pounds was executed to Ira Allen, state treasurer, with another Rupert man and two Dorset natives as bondsmen.

After much expense in erecting a small building in East Rupert and considerable delay in obtaining the necessary machinery, Harmon got his mint into operation. It was located on a small stream, now called Hagar Brook, which crosses Route 30 and empties into the Mettawee River. An Historic Sites marker now indicates the spot.

The sixteen by eighteen foot building was constructed of rough clapboards and was left unpainted. At one end stood the furnace for melting the copper and machinery for rolling the

metal into planchets. In the middle was the cutting machinery, and at the other end the coins were stamped. The dies were pressed by means of an iron screw attached to heavy timbers above, and these were moved by hand with the aid of ropes. Sixty coppers per minute could be stamped, although usually only thirty were made.

The mint building is still standing, but was moved a couple of miles north some years ago to what is now the Graf farm on Route 30 south of Pawlet. Here it has been used as an undistinguished outbuilding. The owner, Robert Graf, remembers as a boy finding a few coppers when it was moved.

There is no record that any of the machinery was saved. It appears to have been destroyed in about 1800, when it was found in the woods on the side of Rupert's Mt. Antony, where, people believed, it was being used by counterfeiters.

Because of the expense of getting started, Harmon in 1786 requested a two-year extension and was granted a total of eight years by the Assembly. During the first three years he was to be free from paying compensation to the state for the coinage privilege, but after that he was to pay the state two-and-a-half percent of all the copper coined. As it turned out Harmon never had to pay the state anything, since his mint ceased operation before the three years were up.

Harmon was not alone in the enterprise. Several other men moved to Rupert from New York and Connecticut to become associated with him. Among them were two goldsmiths and a William Buel from New Haven whose father was connected with the Connecticut mint (which discontinued operation in 1787). Buel brought with him the original dies used by his father and these resulted in Vermont's second issue of 1787-88. It was very similar to the Connecticut coin and entirely different from the original Vermont issue.

Thirty-five varieties of Vermont coins apparently were struck at the Rupert mint, and a thirty-sixth may have recently come to light. The Bennington Museum, with the most complete collection, has the thirty-five varieties and a total of ninety-eight on display. The Vermont Historical So-

ciety has twenty-seven varieties in Montpelier. Private collectors in the field include General M. S. Newton of Brattleboro who has twenty-five varieties. Thus the concluding statement about the mint in Hemenway's "Vermont Historical Gazetteer", published in 1868, seems rather ironical now: "Specimens of Harmon's copper coin are now rare if to be found at all."

Since colonial coins are rarely sold on the open market today and are found primarily at coin auctions, it is almost impossible to assess their worth. But according to the 1963 Yeoman's "A Guide Book to U.S. Coins", which lists only twelve varieties, the Vermont coins range from \$9 to \$250 depending on condition and rarity.

The Vermont cents were poor in workmanship and crudely designed. The dies, cut by the aforementioned goldsmiths and by William Buel, had distinct patterns for the first and second issues. Those minted, under the first contract, in 1785 and 1786 were most appropriate to Vermont for one side bore a rising sun behind wooded mountains with a plough in a field below. The legend read VERMONT-ENSIUM RES. PUBLICA (The Republic of Vermont). The reverse showed an eye within a small circle from which twenty-six rays, thirteen long and thirteen short, radiated with the long intersecting a circle of thirteen stars. On this side the legend read STELLA QUARTA DECIMA (The Fourteenth Star). This legend indicates that although Vermont considered herself an independent republic she had aspirations of becoming the fourteenth star in the federal flag, which she did six years later.

The coins under the second issue (1787-88) bore variation of a bust in profile and the motto AUCTORITATE VERMONTENSIMUM (By Authority of Vermont). On the other side was the figure of a seated woman and the legend INDE*ET*LIB (Independence and Liberty). The reason for such a complete change in design might be this: A bust was the more traditional device and was used on Connecticut coppers and on British half-pennies. Vermont coin so designed might be more acceptable in neighboring states and gain wider circulation.

The number of pennies coined and

put into circulation is unknown, but it was not more than Harmon could dispose of in very limited quantities to a sparse and scattered population. The last were issued in 1788, only three years after the mint was started.

"Making a mint" must have turned out an unprofitable venture for the Rupert resident. But Rueben Harmon

Jr. never could have continued to operate his mint for the allotted eight years anyway. Vermont ceased to be a republic and became the fourteenth state in 1791, and the United States mint was established the next year in Philadelphia to issue American coins.

(Reprinted from the Summer 1964 issue of VERMONT LIFE).

NUMISMATIC RETROSPECT

By GARY BEALS, Spring Valley

The following article, from a British newspaper of May 17, 1890, relates the adventures of a Thomas Stevens, who travelled by bicycle through several Asiatic countries. His incidents with native money, reprinted here, are especially interesting; do not miss his clever solution to the problem of where to hide his gold from robbers.

* * *

Upon leaving Constantinople, I found it advisable to provide myself with sufficient coin to carry me from one capital or European community to another, no matter how great the distance between them might be. It was a somewhat risky as well as inconvenient course to pursue for any person travelling without escort through wild territory, and in a part of the world where the ordinary currency is base coin. It was doubly so to a cyclist, with whom, on bad roads, every pound is a burden. At Constantinople I was informed that among the villages of Asiatic Turkey one might as well attempt to sell the Koh-i-Noor as to pass or change a gold coin. The popular currency of the Anatolian and Armenian peasantry is Turkish metallique money, base coin six times as bulky, in proportion to its purchasing power, as silver.

There is silver money in Turkey also—medjidies, equal to 4s and cheriks, worth 1s. The poverty-stricken peasants, however, regard even the cherik with suspicion, so little are they acquainted with any coin of greater value than the metallique paras. In communities thus badly provided with money, the disposition and transportation of it had to be studied carefully by a baggageless bicyclist starting on a rough ride of 1700 miles—

from Constantinople to Tehran, the next point where I expected to be able to obtain money.

Nor was weight, by any means, the sole consideration. Anatolian brigands, covetous villagers, Circassian highwayman, Koordish freebooters—the gauntlet of all these had to be run, and the only chance of doing so safely was to avoid the appearance of having much money. I finally adopted the expedient of having much Turkish gold coins covered with cloth and sewn on my clothes in place of ordinary buttons. In a money belt concealed beneath my coat I then carried a few gold coins, and in a package on the bicycle enough metallique money to last me until I should reach the next city, where gold could be exchanged readily for the coin in use. In this manner I travelled from one city to another far distant without loading myself down too heavily with metallique currency, purchasing enough of it at one city to last me to the next.

Had I fallen into the hand of robbers, the metallique money in the package and the few gold pieces in the belt would have been appropriated, but the innocent-looking cloth buttons, I hoped, would have escaped notice. Before I reached Tehran some of the sharp edges of the gold coins began to show through the cloth, and I had, consequently, to keep a sharp watch on my precious buttons, and cut them off when the tell-tale coins began to peep through. So far as I was able to see, not one person ever suspected my valuable buttons.

* * *

Reprint from INTERCOIN, Sept. 1964, official publication of the International Numismatic Society of San Diego.



YAP STONE MONEY

United States Department of Interior
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Office of the High Commissioner
Saipan, Mariana Islands

To the Editor:

Apropos of the backpiece on the September 1964 CUNA Mutual Newsletter, you may be interested to know that there are presently five credit unions on the Island of Yap having in all 273 members and nearly \$25,000 in assets (U.S. dollars, not stone money).

Four of the five credit unions serve government employees, and the fifth serves employees of the Yap Trading Company. In front of the Yap Trading Company are two pieces of stone money, as described in your calendar, about two feet in diameter.

You will be interested to know that several thousand pieces of stone money still exist on the island, and that they still have value. In 1960, an American museum paid \$25 per foot of diameter for stone money.

The stone money is often found in the front of Yapese homes and is considered to have value in the same way that artifacts and heirlooms have value. Some of the stone money is six feet or more in diameter and weighs several tons. Stone money is negotiable in Yap to this day, and in the case of larger pieces, the stone money is allowed to remain in place when it is sold, and title is transferred by means of a legal document, which is recorded, just as title to property is recorded in the United States.

I hope the above will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

M. W. GODING
High Commissioner

(Reprint from the November 1964 Newsletter, published by Cuna Mutual Insurance Society, Madison, Wisconsin.)

The clerk at a supermarket check-out counter handed a woman the long tape itemizing her many purchases. After casually glancing at it she said, "That's just about right. I usually pay around \$25 a foot for my groceries."

Nero was talking finances with one of his officers in the amphitheater in Rome. "We aren't making much money from this building," Nero said. "Any idea why?" "Yes, I think I know why," replied the officer. "The lions are eating up all the prophets."

North of the Tehachapis

By DENNIS OLSWANG

Don Kimball has been appointed general chairman for the Fourth Annual Coin Show sponsored by the **Bakersfield Coin Club** to be held April 30, May 1-2, at the New Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street, Bakersfield. Exhibit chairman is **Harlan Curnow**, who may be contacted at 504 Locust St., in that city.

Davis Coin Club recently installed the new slate of officers for this year. Assisting president **Ken Marich**, are: **Edward Cosens**, vice president and **Mrs. Nevada B. Brook**, secretary-treasurer.

The club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the West Davis school.

A special dinner was held for the installation of the new officers of the **Fresno Numismatic Society** at the Motel Fresno. Officers elected to serve are: **Fred E. Tinkham**, president; **Bennett Levinson**, vice president; **Harold Hodson**, secretary; and **Dale Hewlett**, treasurer.

The society meets regularly at 7:30 p.m. the first Friday and third Tuesday of each month at the Knights of Pythias Hall in Fresno. FNS is now beginning its nineteenth year, having been organized in 1946.

(Your editor has recently seen the attractive and impressive "**Certificate of Appreciation**" which is presented to guest speakers of the society. This custom has been in practice for three years now; which gives it seniority over other organizations in this respect.)

George Bartlett, editor of "The Diablo Die Break", monthly bulletin of the **Diablo Numismatic Society**, was awarded life membership in the society. This is the club's first such award.

Recently the society donated copies of "Coins of the World" to six public libraries in the Concord area.

New officers of the club are: **Don Adcock**, president; **Vern King**; vice

president; **Ed Steele**, treasurer; **Jan Carrow**, secretary; and **Sue Manthei**, librarian.

Stan Hawley was guest speaker at the November meeting of the **East Bay Coin Club**, Oakland. Hawley presented a thoroughly informative and interesting talk on his fine collection of ancient Greek coins.

At the January meeting **Mrs. Cecelia Hutt** spoke on "Coins and Medals of the Bonapartes". Mrs. Hutt gave a comprehensive history of the family tree of Napoleon I. Her talk was illustrated with an extensive collection of related coins and medals.

Elected officers of the club for 1965 are: **Don Crosman**, president; **Bates Johnston**, vice president; **R. G. McArthur**, secretary; and **R. J. Frost**, treasurer.

The club meets on the second Friday of the month at the Danish Hall, 164 Eleventh St., Oakland.

Foreign-miscellaneous was the program presented by **Mrs. Cecelia Hutt** and **William O. Hutt** at the January meeting of the **Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**. Mrs. Hutt related the difficulties she had in obtaining some of the coins and medals with the portraits of famous children on them. She discussed the methods of buying coins in Europe. Mr. Hutt explained the unusual ways they purchased the fine specimens of Mexican coins and hacienda tokens in their collection. The program was an excellent 'Double Bill'.

At the previous meeting **Cliff Liss** installed the officers for 1965. On the new slate are: **John D. Sears**, president; **Don T. Thrall**, vice president; **Frank J. Strazzarino**, treasurer; **Maxine Bryce**, secretary; and **Cmdr. H. F. Bowker**, librarian.

The retiring president, **Paul D. Snedaker**, was presented with a PCNS past-president's silver medal, and with a copy of "Coins of the British World", autographed by all those present at the meeting.

Modesto - Turlock Coin Club has issued a new bulletin called "The Dollar Sign". Club secretary, **Charles Beery**, is editor of this monthly.

Tom Taylor has been elected president of the club. Serving under him during the coming year will be **N. O. Delano**, first vice president; **Everett Wendtrand**, second vice president; **Charles Beery**, secretary; and **Larry Meeker**, treasurer.

The club is currently making plans for its Sixth Annual Coin Carnival to be held on Sunday, June 6, at the Turlock War Memorial Auditorium.

Discoverer Coin Club, Sunnyvale, now has a membership of 174, and boasts an average attendance of 125 to 150 at the twice-monthly meetings.

Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the cafeteria at the Lockheed plant.

Kathy Muller, member of the **San Francisco Coin Club**, presented **Inspector William Valentine**, of the San Francisco Police Department, burglary detail, as a surprise guest speaker to the 110 present at the January meeting. Valentine spoke on property protection and crime prevention. He explained why the "E" type of safe with the round door is the most preferred.

New officers of the club are: **G. Elliott Murphy**, president; **Roy Hill**, vice president; **Harrel Woodard**, secretary; and **Jacob Mummert**, treasurer. **John D. Sears**, first president of the club, was named an honorary lifetime member of the board.

Ross Buell, current vice president of Wells Fargo Bank, and the last superintendent of the San Francisco mint, was guest speaker at the February meeting. Buell served as mint superintendent from 1951 to 1955. He spoke on the past coining operations and the distribution through the Federal Reserve System, and reminisced of his experiences during the last years of the mint.

Liberty Numismatic Society, San Mateo, returned **Roy Hill** to office as president for a seventh term, when it elected officers at the December meeting. Other officers are **Jim Vallier**,

vice president; and **Marilyn Dean**, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Varon F. Smith recently spoke to members and guests of the **Marin Coin Club**, Mill Valley. Smith used his award winning exhibit of California gold for the subject of the evening.

Club membership is now 104 and meetings are held at Browns Hall, Mill Valley, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:45 p.m.

New officers of the **Lake Tahoe Coin Club**, Stateline, are: **James Taylor**, president; **Tom Shea**, vice president; **Margaret Draher**, secretary; and **Merle Crandall**, treasurer.

The January meeting of the club was cancelled due to the prohibitive weather in that area.

An installation dinner was held for the new officers of the **Hanford Coin Club**. Elected to serve the club this year are: **Otto Koepke Jr.**, president; **Merle Woods**, vice president; and **Fred Tinkham**, secretary-treasurer.

Ervin Turek of the Hanford Travel Agency was guest speaker at the dinner-meeting. He chose South America as his subject for the talk.

Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in the Municipal Auditorium.

Hayward Area Coin Club has moved its meeting place from Castro Valley to San Leandro. The new address is 1349 Hayes St. The old meeting site is being demolished by the Highway Department for the widening of the freeway.

A group of members of the **North Bay Coin Club**, Richmond, presented a thorough study of coin exhibiting at a recent meeting. **Florence Hess** showed her Best-of-Show exhibit of primitive money and explained how to put an exhibit together and pointed out some of the "do's" and "don'ts" of exhibiting. **Reta Hartson** presented slides from photographs of her prize winning exhibits and stressed the importance of not putting coins in plastic holders for display competition. **Robert Burroughs** related some of his experiences when first beginning to exhibit his collection of Southeast Asia pieces. **Paul Snedaker** gave an explanation of the point system used

for judging exhibits. (He wrote an article on "exhibiting" which was published recently in the club's monthly bulletin.)

At the February quarterly meeting of the **Northern California Numismatic Association**, Mrs. Florence Hess was appointed co-ordinator of numismatic events for the NCNA Newsletter. Club secretaries may send dates and information to her at 2823 Joann Dr., Richmond.

The association is currently making plans for a Hawaiian theme for the

Fourth Annual Coin and Currency Exhibition to be held in San Francisco next September.

NEW CLUBS

It has been noticed that the **Alpine Coin Club** of Mt. Shasta has joined the ANA.

Coin prizes were awarded to some members who set up displays at the December meeting of the **Mariposa Coin Club**. Judging was based on information, originality and neatness.

(Your editor has no other information about these two clubs, and would appreciate further data about them.)

South of the Tehachapis

By CHARLES G. COLVER

C.O.I.N.

General chairman **Harvey L. Rose** informs us the **Convention of International Numismatics** already is well advanced in programming its second annual event at the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel on June 18-19-20. This truly numismatic event will be sponsored jointly by six Southern California clubs: Azteca Numismatic Society, California Exonumist Society, California Foreign Coin Club, International Numismatic Society of San Diego, Society for International Numismatics and Southern California Ancient Numismatic Society.

As at the previous convention, no U.S. coins will be exhibited or sold in the bourse or auction.

One of three large halls will be used for the sixty table bourse; the second for displays; and the third for educational features and a large auction. Most of the world's leading foreign coin dealers are expected to be present, giving local collectors an opportunity to actually meet the person behind those familiar names.

Auctioneer **Don Seibert**, Houston, Texas, says the auction material is expected to reach a quarter-million dollars in value.

If you are a numismatist, this show is a must for your schedule. If you are not now interested in collecting foreign coins, come anyway, and you will be.

SAN DIEGO BANQUET

Approximately 100 members and

guests of the **San Diego Numismatic Society** were present on Jan. 16, for the annual banquet and installation ceremonies. **Joe Givens** was installed as new president of the society during this evening of fun at the Bronze Room in La Mesa.

Presiding over the event as master of ceremonies was CSNA secretary **Dan Harley**. In his usual refreshing manner, he introduced the speaker of the evening, **Bryan Burke**, well known numismatist of San Bernardino. Burke titled his talk "Collectors of Yesterday". He then surprised his audience by addressing his talk to the ladies present. He proceeded to illustrate his talk with slides of European rulers of the 15th through 18th centuries, showing their coin collection, their coin cabinets, their officers empowered to obtain coins for them, and in some instances the violent method by which they met their death. Burke suggested that perhaps these violent deaths were caused by disagreements between the rulers and their subjects over coins, their condition, and price. During the later years of this period it was noted that occasionally a lady appeared as a coin collector. Today the interested parties in coins are equally divided, men and women.

PHILLIPS MARCHES ON

Cyrus H. Phillips, numismatic ambassador representing Bank of America, continues his round-robin numismatic lecture circuit. With his outstanding display of U.S. coinage,

and his lecture entitled "Historical Background of American Coinage", Phillips probably brings his topic before more audiences than anyone else in the entire country.

His display is a standard item for all new branch bank openings. Although he is in great demand as a coin club speaker, he actually speaks before many more non-numismatic groups. How many new collectors have started due to their contact with Cy Phillips will never be known, but we do know that hundreds of thousands have been exposed to the collecting bug through his knowledge. Besides several public school appearances during the past month, he has visited the Northridge Rotary, Progressive Lions, Arcadia Exchange, Alta Loma-Cucamonga Woman's Club, Baptist Ministers Union, and many more.

Our hats are off to the man who is really carrying the numismatic torch throughout the land.

HERE AND THERE

Lawndale Coin Club re-appointed **Mrs. Jackie Berland** as senior advisor to the junior coin club that the club sponsors.

Officers of the **Pennies to Dollars Coin Club** recently decided to assign an old member to each new one coming in, to tell him about the various phases of numismatics.

Sr. Xavier Calico, president of the **International Association of Professional Numismatists**, recently visited briefly in Southern California. Sr. Calico and his brother Fernando are Spanish numismatists, and are well known to collectors of Mexican coins.

Echo Park Coin Club meets every fourth Monday evening at 245 Lucas Avenue at Miramar, Los Angeles. Newly installed president **Jack Mackay** sends a special invitation to anyone interested in coins to visit the club.

Tom Wood has been very active lately tending to his duties as local pusher for the ANA building fund campaign. Quite a number of recent club meeting reports have mentioned that Tom had been there and said a few words regarding this very worthy enterprise. Keep up the good work, Tom!

Pico Rivera Coin Club is conducting a crash membership drive during February and March, offering many valuable attendance prizes to encourage membership. President **Clif-**

ford Kreizel says the club always invites visitors to the second Tuesday evening meeting held at North Ranchito School, 8837 E. Olympic Blvd., Pico Rivera.

Be Lo Ce Coin Club of Brawley was invited by officials of the Holtville Carrot Festival to put on a coin show in conjunction with the festival on February 20-21.

Compton Coin Club has just appointed **Felice deG Burt** as club representative to CSNA.

Thomas Rose was recently installed as president of the Junior Club of the **San Diego Numismatic Society**.

Actor **Glenn Ford** was scheduled as installing officer at the January meeting of the **Culver City Coin Club**. At the last minute he found he was unable to make it due to previous commitments.

SHOP TALK

Jeffrey J. King has opened a coin shop in Santa Monica at 3107-A Pico Blvd., specializing in foreign coins. A feature of the new shop will be a foreign coin bid board, a first in numismatic merchandising.

George and Pearl Johnson have announced the opening of a new coin store at 3516 Balboa Avenue in San Diego, called "The House of Coins". The Johnsons have conducted a mail order business for some time, and now have decided to start a retail store specializing in U.S. coins.

Christensen and Stone of Temple City recently announced they would conduct the auction to be held in connection with the Coin and Hobby Show at the Hotel Pick-Ohio, Youngstown, Ohio, March 19-21.

The **Gardena Coin Shop** was recently opened at 14817 S. Western Ave., Gardena, by **George and Alma Wiggins**. Their trade slogan is "The Coin Shop for Coin Collectors."

NEW CLUB NEWS

Since our last issue the following new clubs have been reported:

HAPEA (Hughes), meets fourth Friday, 1216 E. Imperial, El Segundo.

MAGNAVox (Torrance).

ALBERNI VALLEY COIN CLUB. Can anyone tell us where this is?

DESERT COIN CLUB (Cathedral City).

LEISURE WORLD COIN CLUB.

This now brings the total list of clubs in Southern California to 122.

If your club is not now a member of our state organization, join now.

CLUB SPEAKERS

William Koonce, Verdugo Hills, Nov., "Travel Experiences". **Ann Hall**, Bay Cities, Oct., "Great Women on Coins". **Arthur Garnett**, Azteca, Nov., "Illustrated Historic Mexico". **Fred Coops**, Desert Prospectors, Oct., "Coins Down Through History". **Robert Axelrod**, Forty-Niner, Nov. "Do's and Don'ts for Beginning Collectors".

William Koonce, Bay Cities, Nov., "Australian Coins". **Gary Beals**, International, Nov. "Numismatic Research and Writing". **Sgt. M. Penny**, Whittier, Nov., "Coin Burglaries". **Charles Colver**, Hollywood YMCA, Jan., "British Colonial Coinage". **Boyce Mountjoy**, Monrovia, Jan., "Symbols on the Dollar Bill".

Ann Hall, Upland, Jan., "Famous Women on Coins". **William Largent**, Aerospace, Dec., "Coins from Foreign Governments". **John Gork**, Verdugo Hills, Nov., "Evolution of Money". **Frank Strauss**, Orange County, Feb., "Hard Times Tokens". **John Jackson**, Desert Club, Dec., "Care and Cleaning of Coins".

Robert Carter, Orange County, Jan., "Altered Coins". **Charles Colver**, Bay Cities, Feb., "Coins of the British Commonwealth". **Robert Gamble**, San Fernando Valley, Jan., "Paper

Money". **Dale Sears**, Downey, Feb., "Saving Lincoln Cents to Buy a New Cadillac". **Ethel Lenhart**, Southern Hub, Feb., "Mission Medals".

Guy De Wolf, Compton, Feb. **Jose Rocha**, International, Jan. **William Corkle**, Ventura, Feb., "History of Auctions". **Joel Malter**, Santa Barbara, Dec., "Ancient Coins". **Robert Clarke**, SIN San Gabriel Chapter, Jan., "Coins of Fiji".

Alva Christensen, Long Beach, Feb., "A Day in a Coin Shop". **Leonel Panosh**, San Diego, Jan., "Numismatics as a Hobby". **Dr. Ralph Crawford**, Ventura, Jan., "A Trip Abroad". **Charles Colver**, SIN San Gabriel Chapter, Feb., "British Colonial Coinage".

Leonel Panosh, San Diego, Dec., "Insurance for Collectors". **James White**, San Diego, Feb., "Currency of the Thirteen Colonies". **Don Jurgensen**, Santa Paula, Jan., "A Trip to Africa and Asia". **Ralph Mitchell**, Orange County, Banquet, "Odd and Curious Monies".

Capt. Estes Hawks, San Bernardino, Feb., "Military Medals and Decorations". **Robert Gamble**, East Los Angeles, Jan., "Paper Money". **Ann Hall**, Echo Park, Jan., "Famous Women on Coins". **Peggy Borgolte**, Bay Cities, Dec., "Shadow of a Forgotten Coin".

Growing Interest in Mexico Coinage

By ERMA C. STEVENS, Northridge

It is encouraging to see the ever-growing interest of American (and California) collectors in the numismatics of Mexico. Certainly, those of us who reside in California have a more than casual reason for turning to the coins of the country of which our state was once a part.

The borders of the United States and Mexico are so interlaced with the descendants, customs and even language idioms from both sides that, quite naturally, our search for historic backgrounds on the coinage of either country will show that many of the early coins of Mexico were truly coins of the United States as well.

It would be pitiful for the collectors

of this country to get themselves into a numismatic groove, foregoing the many bypaths and intriguing diversions constantly opened up by a bit of historical research. History can be exciting if related to our coin collections. As we add coins to these collections the thrill can be doubled if we will learn as much as possible about the times and people involved. Much of this information may be obtained in books. It has been said that a coin collector cannot be a numismatist without becoming a bibliophile as well. Mexico is prolific in history books, many written in English by North Americans who have lived or visited that country in the various ex-

citing times of its many forms of government.

The first mint of the Americas opened in Mexico City in 1536, which was 256 years before the opening of our U.S. mint in Philadelphia. Throughout the interim North Americans had become accustomed to the Spanish dollar based on the real system—12½ cents being the value of 1 real, and 8 reales equaling \$1.

The dire need of small change caused the cutting of the dollar (8 reales) into eight pie-shaped parts, known as "bits". Thus in later years, when the United States struck the 25c piece, it was automatically called "two bits", a cognomen still in use.

The dollar of Spain is variously known as "Piece of Eight", "Pillar Dollar", "Spanish Milled Dollar" and "Dos Mundos (two world) Dollar". Most collectors of this series prefer the latter term.

The first issue in the United States of the Continental currency in 1775 bears evidence of the respect for the Spanish dollar, as it calls for payment in "Spanish Milled Dollars", or the value thereof in gold or silver. This dollar, unequalled in the annals of foreign trade, was officially sanctioned in the United States until 1857.

Below the border many changes have taken place since Cortez and his small band of soldiers conquered the Aztec empire. For 300 years to the day, Spain ruled the area now known as Mexico and parts of southwestern United States.

The French "pastry war", which is a story in itself, and the intervention of the French while we were in the throes of a civil war, resulted in the establishment of the Empire of Maximilian (1864-67). This brought about the change in its coinage to the decimal system, with 100 centavos to the peso, equivalent to our 100 cents to the dollar. Many privately leased mints, however, did not conform to the decree but continued to strike coins of the old "real" values. This adds to the intrigue of the period.

The many revolutions in Mexico parallel our determination for complete independence. The provisional mintings, the many counterstamps, and the coins of the revolutionists,

are a study in themselves, which can be very rewarding and exciting to the collector.

Those of us who have delved into the coinage of our neighbor soon lose the feeling of being a "foreign" collector as we gain an insight into the closely related backgrounds of the two nations.

Truly we are still collecting "American" coins and becoming detached from isolationism. This above all can promote a better understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

I would like to acknowledge the books, periodicals and conversations with the many people who have contributed the bits of knowledge in the foregoing article, as I claim none of it as original, but I would scarcely know where to start.

To anyone who wishes to pursue the subjects I have opened, let me recommend the following all of which contain historical backgrounds of the subject with which they deal:

Dr. A. F. Pradeau

Numismatic History of Mexico

Mexican Patriots and Their Part in Numismatics

The Mints of Alamos and Hermosillo

Theodore V. Buttrey Jr.

Mexican Decimal Coins — Whitman Publishing

The Coinage of Mexico Since 1905 —ANA Reprint

Howland Wood

The Coinage of the Mexican Revolutionists—ANS Reprint

J. Sanchez Garza

Coins of the Mexican Revolution

American Numismatic Society

Numismatist Selections, Vol. 4.
(Many articles in past issues.)

The above deal with the coinages, but for a panoramic view from pre-conquest times to the present I recommend a general history of Mexico. There are a number of good ones. An easy to read and thoroughly delightful one is "Many Mexicos" by Leslie Byrd Simpson, published by the University of California Press—1962.

From the Desk of the Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

1500	JONES, Leba	4230 Bush Ave., Cleveland 9, Ohio
1501	HARLEY, Dennett	6 Brookhaven Rd., Worcester, Mass.
1502	DWORAK, Cyril	15235 Valerio, Van Nuys, Calif.
1503	MULLER, Mrs. Kathy	c/o Downtown Coin Exchange, 9 Sutter St., San Francisco, Calif.
1504	MYERS, T. W. Jr.	13102 Kismet Ave., Sylmar, Calif.
1505	POMONA VALLEY COIN CLUB	172 W. Monterey, Pomona, Calif.
1506	GOODE, Dr. John R.	1353 Sixth Street, San Pedro, Calif.
1507	PITTMAN, John J.	4 Acton St., Rochester, New York
1508	KING, Jeffrey J.	3107-A Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif.
1509	LEISURE WORLD COIN CLUB	c/o Alicc B. Meyer, Apt. 168-G, 13170 Southport Lane, Seal Beach, Calif.
1510	YEE, John	1292 Green St., San Francisco 9, Calif.
1511	LOCKLEY, Neil H.	1671 The Alameda, Suite 314, San Jose 26, Calif.
1512	STANIN, Richard C.	67 Oswego St., Baldwinsville, N.Y.
1513	SAWALL, E. F.	16460 W. Ashlan, Kerman, Calif.
1514	LAWSON, Eileen	P.O. Box 383, Gardena, Calif.
1515	MURPHY, G. Elliott	2443-41st Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.
1516	BINGLEY, Mrs. Regina	P.O. Box 376, Larkspur, Calif.
1517	PATTISON, W. D., Jr.	127 Quincy St., Bakersfield, Calif.
1518	BAIN, Oliver D.	24433 Border Road, Los Altos, Calif.

RE-INSTATEMENTS

103	EFKER, Robert G.	3083 Terrace Ave., Fresno, Calif.
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RESIGNATIONS

543	BASSETTI, Del	680 Foothill, San Luis Obispo, Calif.
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DECEASED

1112	BERRINGER, Ben	3447 Federal Ave., Los Angeles 66, Calif.
867	BROWN, James	Box 882, Portola, Calif.
936	WARD, Lawrence A.	1566 140th Ave., San Leandro, Calif.

CHANGE OF NAME AND ADDRESS

1416	VALLEY COIN CLUB (old name) to:—	
	VALLEY COIN CLUB OF LOS ALAMOS	c/o Mildred Harp 826 W. Cook St., Santa Maria, Calif.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

1256	BARRETT, William H.	P.O. Box 373, Fullerton, Calif.
1303	BORCHARDT, Leroy	10033 Tecum Rd., Downey, Calif.
695	BUSHNELL, J. C.	10920 Wilshire Blvd., No. 604, Los Angeles 24, Calif.
531	BROWN, L. L.	P.O. Box 363, Goleta, Calif.
1280	COIN CORNER	17772 San Bernardino Ave., Fontana, Calif.
1100	CALIF. EXONUMIST SOCIETY	c/o Joseph J. Garside, Box 745, San Diego 12, Calif.
1467	CAPEN, Merle L.	P.O. Box 1065, Newport Beach, Calif.
1204	DAVID, George C.	I.O.O.F. Home, Saratoga, Calif.
999	DIEDRICH, R. A.	621 Rodeo Rd., Fullerton, Calif.
1450	DINOPLE, Anthony	1125 Palos Verdes, San Pedro, Calif.
1278	FRIEND, Joseph	1400 N. Spring St., Los Angeles 21, Calif.
1426	GENERAL DYNAMICS COIN CLUB	P.O. Box 2507, Pomona, Calif.
640	GORDON, Jack J.	Box 64426, Los Angeles, Calif.
605	GUARNERA, Vincent	2841 Tilrose Ave., Occanside, N.Y.
1289	HOUSE OF GREEN AND GOLD	900 Munras Ave., Monterey, Calif.
1454	HENDRICKS, Robert W.	2934 University Ave., San Diego 4, Calif.
1014	INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTER'S COIN CLUB	c/o Dolores R. Noble, 3505 Juniper St., San Diego, Calif.

1108	LA MESA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY	c/o Richard L. McGlin, 2441 Blackton Dr., San Diego, Calif.
45	LINDOW, Lloyd E.	Apt. 33, 5730 N. Willard, Ave., San Gabriel, Calif.
1404	MONTY, Eli	524 W. Arbor Vitae, Inglewood, Calif.
1384	MARCUS, Gertrude	4175 Sunset Lane, Oxnard, Calif.
1431	MOSER, Clarence H.	8205 Santa Inez Pl., Buena Park, Calif.
1220	NEW ENGLAND COIN CO.	806 Hippodrome Bldg., Cleveland 14, Ohio
118	PHETTEPLACE, Dr. Dale O.	501 N. Cornell Ave., Fullerton, Calif.
1037	RIME, John L.	14582 Carfax Dr., No. "C", Santa Ana, Calif.
1422	RICHARDSON, Raymond J.	2503 Culotta St., Chalmette, Louisiana
1469	RETTEW, Joel D.	10033 Tecum Road, Downey, Calif.
390	REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB	c/o Addie Tieman 2121 Dutton Ave., Santa Rosa, Calif.
1065	ROTHERT, Matt H.	P.O. Box 10, Camden, Arkansas
1322	SWOPE, A. L.	235 Kenneth Rd., Glendale, Calif.
1230	SCHAFER, Maurice N.	5240 1/2 Orange, San Diego, Calif.
97	TROUT, Harry	P.O. Box 305, Dulzura, Calif.
659	WORTH, William N.	5228 N. Denver, Portland, Oregon

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership, Nov. 11, 1964	781
New Members, Nov. 11, 1964 to Feb. 15, 1965	19
Re-Instatements	1
Resignations	1
Deceased	3
Dropped (Non-Payment of 1964 Dues)	74
Membership, Feb. 15, 1965	723

DAN HARLEY

Calendar of Numismatic Events

CALIFORNIA STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

May 6-9, 1965	Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco
Milton C. Strauch, general chairman	77 Westbrook Ave., Daly City
John D. Sears, asst. gen. chairman	15 Poncetta Drive, Daly City
Aldo P. Basso, bourse chairman	6 W. 25th Ave., San Mateo
Roy Hill, exhibit chairman	1140 Sutter St., San Francisco
Nov. 4-7, 1965	El Cortez Hotel, San Diego
Albert L. Baber, general chairman	611 Oakwood Way, El Cajon
El Beals, asst. gen. chairman	8226 Dorchester St., Spring Valley
Harvey L. Rose, bourse chairman	P.O. Box 577, La Mesa
Roger Sullivan, exhibit chairman	3161 Hawthorne St., San Diego
April 14-17, 1966	Del Webb's Town House, Fresno
S. Everett Phillips, general chairman	1920 Country Club Lane, Fresno
Fred E. Tinkham, asst. gen. chairman	1117 N. Irwin St., Hanford
William Y. Lee, bourse chairman	69 Plaza Shopping Center, Fresno
Fall, 1966	San Bernardino
Spring, 1967	Sacramento
Spring, 1968	San Francisco

ATTENTION PLEASE: Any South of the Tehachapi local club wishing to be host to the Fall 1967 CSNA convention is requested to submit their invitation to the CSNA officers at the Executive Board Meeting at the San Francisco convention, May 1965.

Calendar of Numismatic Events

OTHERS

- March 11-31 National Orange Show Hobby Show
Orange Show Grounds, San Bernardino
Numismatic section sponsored by San Bernardino County Coin Club
- April 4 Monrovia-Covina Fourth Annual Coin-A-Rama
Swiss Park, 2501 E. Huntington Drive, Duarte
Frank Strauss, general chairman, 623 W. Lemon Ave., Monrovia
- April 25.....San Francisco Coin Club Second Annual Coin Fair
Hall of Flowers, San Francisco
Ray Peiser, general chairman, 1257 Montgomery St., San Francisco
- April 30-May 2.....Bakersfield Coin Club Fourth Annual Show
New Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South "P" St., Bakersfield
W. D. Pattison Jr., 127 Quincy St., Bakersfield
- May 1-2 San Bernardino County Coin Show
Orange Show Grounds, Cafeteria Bldg., San Bernardino
Sylvia Novack, general chairman, P.O. Box 729, San Bernardino
- May 15-16 Marin Coin Club Second Annual Coin Show
American Legion Hall, Mill Valley
Jack Repp, general chairman, 116 Courtright Rd., San Rafael
- May 22-23 North Bay Coin Club Third Annual Coin Fair
Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
Glen Schindler, general chairman, P.O. Box 444, Station A, Richmond
- May 28-31 West Coast Numismatic Assoc. Sixth Annual Convention
McCabe Hall, San Jose
Dcnis Hooker, general chairman, 65 Post St., San Jose
- June 4-6 Santa Barbara Coin Club Seventh Annual Convention
Miramar Hotel Convention Center, Santa Barbara
Ray Bower, general chairman, P.O. Box 291, Ojai.
- June 4-6 San Diego County Inter-Club Eighth Annual Coinarama
El Cortez Hotel Convention Center, San Diego
R. E. Martin, general chairman, 1141 Sixth Ave., San Diego
- June 6 Modesto-Turlock Coin Club Sixth Annual Coin Carnival
War Memorial Auditorium, Turlock
- June 12-13.....Pomona Valley Coin Club Fifth Annual Coinarama
Los Angeles County Fair Grounds, Bldg 22, Pomona
W. J. Jackson, general chairman, 324 E. "F" St., Ontario
- June 18-20 Second Annual Convention of International Numismatics
Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles
Harvey Rose, general chairman, P.O. Box 577, La Mesa
- Aug. 25-28 American Numismatic Association 74th Annual Convention
Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Houston, Texas
A. I. Martin, general chairman, 6207 Chevy Chase Drive, Houston
- Sept. 9-12 Northern California Numismatic Assoc. Fourth Annual
Coin and Currency Exhibition
Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco
Milton C. Strauch, president, 77 Westbrook Ave., Daly City.

Attention Local Club Secretaries

Your editors would appreciate being kept advised of these coming affairs in order that we may keep our Calendar of Numismatic Events as complete and accurate as possible. May we have your cooperation?